

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) In an office furniture arrangement having an office furniture component which is positionable in an office area ~~to separate adjacent work areas~~, said office furniture component including a support structure positionable in the office area and a glass panel assembly supported ~~thereon~~ said support structure which permits viewing ~~through~~of said glass panel assembly from an exterior of said office furniture component, comprising the improvement wherein said glass panel assembly comprises a sheet of glass defined by a peripheral glass edge and opposite glass faces extending between said glass edge, said glass panel assembly further including an elongate edge rail which extends along said glass edge and rigidly supports said sheet of glass panel~~along~~ said glass edge, said edge rail including an elongate fixing channel which extends parallel to and opens toward said glass edge wherein said glass edge is received within said fixing channel, said fixing channel including opposite channel walls which are spaced apart to define a channel opening that is narrower than a thickness of said glass, said channel walls extending generally parallel to said opposite glass faces and being formed of a rigid material which defines opposing interior wall surfaces that are rigid and respectively contact said opposite glass faces of said sheet of glass, at least one of said channel walls being resiliently deflectable so as to be deflected by insertion of said glass edge in said channel opening wherein said glass edge is in tight-fitting contact with said deflectable channel wall and the other of said channel walls.

2. (Currently Amended) In an office furniture arrangement having an office furniture component which is positionable in an office area ~~to separate adjacent work areas~~, said office furniture component including a support structure positionable within the office area and a glass panel assembly supported thereon said support structure so as to permit viewing ~~through~~ of said glass panel assembly from said office area, comprising the improvement wherein said glass panel assembly comprises a sheet of glass defined by glass edges and opposite faces extending between said glass edges, said glass panel assembly further including an edge frame having edge rail sections which extend respectively along said glass edges, at least one of said edge rails including an elongate fixing channel which extends parallel to and opens toward said respective glass edge wherein said glass edge is received within said respective fixing channel, each said fixing channel including opposite channel walls which are spaced apart and extend generally parallel to said opposite glass faces of said sheet of glass, said channel walls being formed of a rigid material which permits at least one of said channel walls to be resiliently deflectable upon insertion of said respective glass edge therein while said glass edge is in tight-fitting gripping contact with said deflectable channel wall and the other of said channel walls, each said deflectable channel wall including a projection proximate a distal end thereof wherein said projection contacts an opposing one of said glass faces.

3. (Currently Amended) The office furniture arrangement according to Claim 2, wherein said projection converges to a peak which said peak is disposed in direct contact with said respective glass edge, said respective glass edge being disposed in compression between said peak of said deflectable channel wall and an opposing interior surface of the other of said channel walls disposed directly opposite to said peak.

4. (Original) The office furniture arrangement according to Claim 3, wherein at least one of said edge rails is coated with a coating material.

5. (Original) The office furniture arrangement according to Claim 4, wherein said coating is a shearable material which is removable by said glass edge upon insertion of said glass edge into said respective fixing channel such that said coating conforms to a shape of said glass.

6. (Currently Amended) In an office furniture arrangement having an office furniture component which is positionable in an office area ~~to separate adjacent work areas~~, said office furniture component including a support structure positionable within the office area and a glass panel assembly supported thereon on said support structure so as to permit viewing through of said glass panel from said office area, comprising the improvement wherein said glass panel assembly comprises a sheet of glass defined by glass edges and opposite faces extending between said glass edges, said glass panel assembly further including an edge frame having edge rail sections which extend respectively along said glass edges, at least one of said edge rails including an elongate fixing channel which extends parallel to and opens toward said respective glass edge wherein said glass edge is received within said respective fixing channel, each said fixing channel including opposite channel walls which are spaced apart and extend generally parallel to said opposite glass faces, said channel walls being formed of a rigid material which permits at least one of said channel walls to be resiliently deflectable upon insertion of said respective glass edge therein while said glass edge is in tight-fitting gripping contact with said deflectable channel wall and the other of said channel walls, said deflectable channel wall and said other channel wall being joined together by a side wall of said edge rail to define rigid corners of said edge rail,

said edge rail having an undercut ~~undercuts~~ formed in said edge rail side wall proximate a juncture defined between said deflectable channel wall and said side wall proximate one of said corners.

7. (Original) The office furniture arrangement according to Claim 1, wherein said glass has a rectangular shape defined by opposite vertical edge sections and opposite top and bottom horizontal edge sections each of said vertical edge sections being supported along a vertical length thereof by one said fixing channel.

8. (Currently Amended) In a space-dividing wall panel having a base frame that defines a periphery of said wall panel, said base frame being defined by elongate frame members which are joined together to define an open interior region between said frame members, said wall panel further including a glass panel assembly which is supported on said base frame to overlie said open interior region while permitting viewing ~~through~~ of said glass panel assembly from an exterior of said wall panel, comprising the improvement wherein said glass panel assembly comprises a sheet of glass having glass edges extending about the periphery thereof and opposite faces extending between said glass edges, said glass panel assembly further including an edge frame comprising a plurality of edge rails which said edge frame is joined to said glass to support said glass edges, at least one of said edge rails including an elongate fixing channel which extends parallel to a respective one of said glass edges and opens toward said respective glass edge to tight-fittingly receive said respective glass edge therein, each said fixing channel including opposite channel walls which are spaced apart and extend generally parallel to said opposite glass faces wherein said channel walls have opposing interior wall surfaces which abut against said opposite glass faces, at least one of said channel walls being deflectable upon insertion of said glass edge therein so that

said glass edge is in gripping contact with said interior wall surfaces, said deflectable channel wall including a projection proximate a distal end thereof wherein said deflectable channel wall is spaced from said glass face adjacent said projection and is in contact with said opposing glass face through said projection.

9. (Original) The wall panel according to Claim 8, wherein said projection converges to a peak which is in contact with said glass face, said respective glass edge being disposed in compression between said peak of said deflectable channel wall and the interior surface of the other of said channel walls.

10. (Original) The wall panel according to Claim 8, wherein said interior wall surfaces define substantially non-compressible hard surfaces.

11. (Original) The wall panel according to Claim 10, wherein at least one of said channel walls includes a coating thereon which said coating defines said respective interior wall surface.

12. (Original) The wall panel according to Claim 11, wherein said coating is a shearable material which is shearable by said glass edge upon insertion of said glass edge into said respective fixing channel such that said coating conforms to a shape of said glass face.

13. (Previously Presented) The wall panel according to Claim 8, wherein said interior wall surface of the other of said channel walls is flat so as to be in face-to-face contact with said respective opposing glass face directly opposite to said projection.

14. (Currently Amended) In a space-dividing wall panel having a load-bearing frame that defines a periphery of said wall panel, said wall panel further including a glass panel assembly which is supported on said frame by connector parts, comprising the improvement wherein said glass panel assembly comprises a sheet of glass having glass edges extending about the periphery thereof and opposite faces extending between said glass edges, said glass edges being arranged in substantially parallel edge pairs disposed on opposite sides of said glass, said glass panel assembly further including an edge frame comprising a plurality of edge rails joined ~~together~~ which said edge frame is joined to said glass to support said glass edges, said glass edges of at least one of said edge pairs being supported within fixing channels defined within a corresponding pair of said edge rails, each said fixing channel extending parallel to a respective one of said glass edges and opening toward said respective glass edge to tight-fittingly receive said respective glass edge therein, each said fixing channel including opposite channel walls which are spaced apart and extend generally parallel to said opposite glass faces, said channel walls having opposing interior wall surfaces which are rigid and are normally spaced apart a distance less than a thickness of said glass wherein at least one of said channel walls deflects outwardly upon insertion of said respective glass edge within said respective fixing channel.

15. (Currently Amended) In a space-dividing wall panel having a base frame that defines a periphery of said wall panel, said wall panel further including a glass panel assembly which is supported on said base frame by connector parts wherein said base frame vertically supports a weight of said glass panel assembly, comprising the improvement wherein said glass panel assembly comprises a sheet of glass having glass edges extending about the periphery thereof and opposite faces extending between said glass edges, said glass edges

being arranged in substantially parallel edge pairs disposed on opposite sides of said glass, said glass panel further including an edge frame comprising a plurality of edge rails joined together which said edge frame is joined to said glass to support said glass edges and includes said connector parts to support said glass panel assembly on said base frame, said glass edges of at least one of said edge pairs being supported within fixing channels defined within a corresponding pair of said edge rails, each said fixing channel extending parallel to a respective one of said glass edges and opening toward said respective glass edge to tight-fittingly receive said respective glass edge therein, each said fixing channel including opposite channel walls which are spaced apart and extend generally parallel to said opposite glass faces, said channel walls having opposing interior wall surfaces which are normally spaced apart a distance less than a thickness of said glass wherein at least one of said channel walls deflects outwardly upon insertion of said respective glass edge within said respective fixing channel, said deflectable channel wall being spaced outwardly of said opposing glass face and including a projection which projects toward said respective glass face and spans said space therebetween so as to contact said opposing glass face, said glass edge being disposed in gripping contact between said projection and an opposing one of said interior wall surfaces.

16. (Currently Amended) In a space-dividing wall panel having a base frame that defines a periphery of said wall panel, said wall panel further including a glass panel assembly which is supported on said base frame by connector parts, comprising the improvement wherein said glass panel assembly comprises a sheet of glass having glass edges extending about the periphery thereof and opposite faces extending between said glass edges, said glass edges being arranged in substantially parallel edge pairs disposed on opposite sides of said glass, said glass panel assembly

further including an edge frame comprising a plurality of edge rails joined together which said edge frame is joined to said glass to support said glass edges, said glass edges of at least one of said edge pairs being supported within fixing channels defined within a corresponding pair of said edge rails, each said fixing channel extending parallel to a respective one of said glass edges and opening toward said respective glass edge to tight-fittingly receive said respective glass edge therein, each said fixing channel including opposite channel walls which are spaced apart and extend generally parallel to said opposite glass faces, said channel walls having opposing interior wall surfaces which are normally spaced apart a distance less than a thickness of said glass wherein at least one of said channel walls deflects outwardly upon insertion of said respective glass edge within said respective fixing channel, each said fixing channel having an interior end face against which said glass edge abuts when disposed within said fixing channel, said channel end face including undercuts adjacent said deflectable channel wall so that the other of said channel walls extends away from said channel end face to a height which is less than a height of said deflectable channel wall.

17. (Original) The wall panel according to Claim 14, wherein said glass has a vertical height and said fixing channels support said glass edges substantially along the entire vertical height of said glass.

18. (Original) The wall panel according to Claim 14, wherein said edge frame includes said edge rails at a bottom and a top of said glass wherein said bottom and top edge rails are fixed to said panel frame by connector parts.

19. (Previously Presented) In an office furniture arrangement having an office furniture component which is positionable in an office area to separate adjacent work

areas, said office furniture component including a glass panel supported thereon, comprising the improvement wherein said glass panel comprises a sheet of glass having glass edges extending about the periphery thereof and opposite faces extending between said glass edges, said glass panel further including an edge frame comprising a plurality of edge rails which said edge frame is joined to said glass to support said glass edges, at least one of said edge rails including an elongate fixing channel which extends parallel to a respective one of said glass edges and opens toward said respective glass edge to tightly receive said respective glass edge therein, each said fixing channel including opposite channel walls which are spaced apart and extend generally parallel to said opposite glass faces wherein said channel walls have opposing interior wall surfaces which face toward and abut against both of said opposite glass faces, at least one of said interior wall surfaces further including a coating thereon which is shearable by said glass edge upon insertion of said glass edge into said respective fixing channel such that said coating conforms to a shape of said glass face and said channel walls are in gripping contact with said glass edge.

20. (Original) The office furniture arrangement according to Claim 19, wherein said coating is a powder coating.

21. (Original) The office furniture arrangement according to Claim 20, wherein said edge rails are defined by extruded metal to define said fixing channel.

22. (Original) The office furniture arrangement according to Claim 19, wherein at least one of said channel walls is resiliently deflectable and is in a deflected position when said glass edge is received within said fixing channel.

23. (Currently Amended) The office furniture arrangement ~~component~~ according to Claim 22, wherein said glass has opposite vertical side edge sections, said glass edges of said side edge sections being received within said fixing channels of said edge rails wherein said edge rails extend vertically.

24. (Previously Presented) In an office furniture arrangement having an office furniture component which is positionable in an office area, said office furniture component including a glass panel supported thereon, comprising the improvement wherein said glass panel comprises a sheet of glass having a glass edge extending about the periphery thereof and opposite faces extending between said glass edge, said glass panel further including an edge rail which said edge rail is joined to said glass to support said glass edge, said edge rail including an elongate fixing channel which extends parallel to said glass edge and opens toward said glass edge to tight-fittingly receive said glass edge therein, each said fixing channel including opposite channel walls which are spaced apart and extend generally parallel to said opposite glass faces wherein said channel walls have opposing interior wall surfaces which abut against said opposite glass faces, at least one of said interior wall surfaces further including a powder coating thereon which is shearable by said glass edge upon insertion of said glass edge into said respective fixing channel such that said coating conforms to a shape of said glass face and said glass edge is in gripping contact with said channel walls.

25. (New) The office furniture arrangement according to Claim 1, wherein said support structure maintains the glass panel assembly in a fixed orientation.

26. (New) The office furniture arrangement according to Claim 1, wherein said edge rail is formed of extruded metal.

27. (New) The office furniture arrangement according to Claim 1, wherein said support structure carries a weight of said glass panel assembly.

28. (New) The office furniture arrangement according to Claim 2, wherein said one of said edge rails with said fixing channel extends along a respective one of said glass edges which extends vertically.